



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Helene Nelson, Secretary

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New Study Points to Need for Health Insurance Tax Cut and BadgerCare Plus *National Survey Indicates Health Care Costs are Squeezing Middle-Class*

Madison - Earlier this week, the non-partisan Commonwealth Fund released a study revealing widespread concerns about the affordability of health care, access to quality care, and the safety and efficiency of care.

Of those surveyed, about half (48%) of adults in middle-income families (\$35,000 to \$50,000 annual income) reported serious problems paying for health care and health insurance. In fact, health care costs are now stretching budgets even for those with higher incomes. One-third of adults with family incomes between \$50,000 and \$75,000 a year, and one-fifth with incomes over \$75,000, report serious medical bill concerns.

“Paying for and receiving health care is an increasing worry for many families,” said Secretary Helene Nelson, Department of Health and Family Services. “Fortunately the Governor’s Affordability Agenda is working to make health care more affordable for Wisconsin’s middle-class and working families.”

The Governor’s “Affordability Agenda” includes the following initiatives:

- *Tax free health insurance premiums* to save families hundreds of dollars in medical expenses.
- *BadgerCare Plus*, which would allow every Wisconsin family, regardless of income, to buy affordable, comprehensive health care coverage for their kids.
- *Healthy Wisconsin* to improve access to affordable health insurance for small businesses and individuals.

“People all across Wisconsin are struggling to find high quality, affordable health care. Health care should be birth right in Wisconsin not a luxury good, and Governor Doyle is committed to making that a reality for all Wisconsin residents,” added Secretary Nelson. “I look forward to working with Governor Doyle and the legislature to implement these important initiatives as quickly as possible.”

The recently released study can be found at:

http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=394606

Information regarding Governor Doyle’s BadgerCare Plus proposal can be found at:

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/index.htm>

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